

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

Permanent Supportive Housing – Serious Mental Illness

Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

DBHDS oversees Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs that build on a successful model using existing partnerships to provide and integrate basic behavioral and primary health care services to individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) in stable housing. It is intended to enable individuals in the PSH program to have coordinated access to services that help ensure successful tenancy and reduce the severity of mental illness symptoms and medical problems in order to be well and live as independently as possible in their communities.

02 Funding sources

State General Funds support rental subsidies and services to be administered by community services boards, or private entities to provide stable, supportive housing for persons with serious mental illness.

03 Governance

DBHDS manages contracts, oversees PSH program operations, evaluates outcomes, and provides training and technical assistance.

04 Population served

Individuals with serious mental illness who:

- Are being discharged from a state hospital receive first priority for any open PSH slot.
- Experiencing long-term homelessness
- Leaving a supervised residential program (group home, assisted living facility)
- Frequently use crisis, local hospital, or criminal justice systems due to unstable housing

05 How program works

- PSH participants hold a standard lease for a rental unit from a private landlord.
- PSH funds pay a long-term rental subsidy and the individual pays approximately 30% of their income to rent.
- Average annual rental subsidy is approximately \$9,000 per household. Actual subsidy costs are driven by rental housing market conditions in each community. DBHDS uses HUD Fair Market Rent and local payment standards to cap subsidy payments.
- Housing stabilization services have an average annual per household cost of \$3,000. These services include locating housing, coordinating with clinical services, administering rental assistance, and preventing evictions.
- One-time housing costs (e.g., security deposits, furnishings) average approximately \$1,000 per household.
- Total annual PSH cost per household is approximately \$13,000. This includes subsidies, staffing, one-time costs, and program administration.

- Clinical services are provided by CSBs and private providers. These services include psychiatry, case management, Assertive Community Treatment, peer support, skill-building services, and psychosocial rehabilitation. These services are funded through existing mechanisms such as Medicaid, state and local mental health funds, and federal grants.
- DBHDS also administers PSH for Pregnant or Parenting Women (PPW) with SUDs (75 slots) and oversees Auxiliary Grant in Supportive Housing (AGSH) providers (120 slots).

06 Program history

This program started in 2016.

07 Program highlights

- The program served approximately 1,250 individuals across the state in FY 2020.
- The average annual rental assistance amount is \$9,043.
- Funding for PSH-SMI has been consistently increasing with a program high of \$14 million in base funds set for FY 2022.
- Based on data from DBHDS, a higher percentage of males (63%) received services through the PSH compared to 37% female recipients. In addition, the majority of persons receiving PSH services indicated their race as Black (50%), with 45% of white individuals receiving PSH services in FY 2020. Finally, the majority of individuals served by PSH are 40 to 64 years old (63%).